

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1, 4-9 and 12-15 were previously pending in the application. Claim 9 is canceled, leaving claims 1, 4-8 and 12-15 for consideration.

Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 are rejected as unpatentable over SHIMADA et al. 6,147,722 in view of NAKATA et al. JP 2000-231123. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites that a wiring that is connected to the other end of the current path of the switching element extends to and overlaps a projecting portion of a second one of the plural scanning lines that projects towards the first scanning line.

By way of example, Figure 1 of the present application shows a wiring 14 connected to the other end of the current path at 14a of switching element 15. The wiring extends to and overlaps a projecting portion 12b of a second one of the plural scanning lines 12 (the first one of the scanning lines being connected to the control end of switching element 15). A projecting portion 12b projects towards the first scanning line 12.

Figure 22 of SHIMADA shows first and second scanning lines 104'. However, second scanning line 104' (at the top of

the page) does not have a projecting portion that projects towards the first scanning line. Thus, SHIMADA could not teach the wiring overlapping the projecting portion, as recited.

Figure 2 of NAKATA shows first and second scanning lines 2b. However, NAKATA neither teaches a wiring extending from one end of a switching element (at a first scanning line) to a second scanning line, nor a projecting portion of a second scanning line projecting towards the first scanning line.

The above-noted features are missing from each of the references, are absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the proposed combination of references.

Canceling claim 9 is believed to render moot the rejection of claim 9.

Claim 12 ultimately depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention and is also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 6-8 are rejected as unpatentable over SHIMADA in view of NAKATA, and further in view of OTA et al. 5,831,707. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 recites that the projecting portion of the second scanning line overlaps at least one of the contact hole and the region where disclination occurs.

As set forth in the Official Action SHIMATA does not teach a projecting portion overlapping at least one of the contact hole and a region where disclination occurs. Column 22, lines 29-33 of OTA is offered for this teaching.

However, the passage noted in the Official Action is directed to the black matrix of OTA and does not appear pertinent to the projection portion of the scanning line.

In any event, Figure 2 of OTA shows first and second scanning lines 102. As seen in Figure 2 of OTA, there is neither a contact hole nor a projecting portion of the second scanning line (the scanning line at the top of the page).

Therefore, OTA does not teach that for which it is offered. Thus, neither reference teaches a projecting portion of a second scanning line overlapping at least one of the contact hole and a region where disclination occurs, as recited in claim 6.

Claim 7 recites that the black matrix overlaps the data lines and that the black matrix has a first portion that is wider than other portions of the black matrix. The wider portion of the black matrix overlaps a region in the pixel between the data lines and the projecting portion of the second scanning line.

By way of example, Fig. 1 of the present application shows black matrix 16 having a wide portion 16a that overlaps a region in the pixel between the data line 13 and the projecting portion 12ba/12b of the second scanning line 12.

The Official Action notes that SHIMADA does not teach a black matrix having a first portion that is wider than other portions of the black matrix and that overlaps a region in the pixel between the data line and the projecting portion. Column 22, lines 29-33 of OTA is again offered for this teaching.

While column 22, lines 29-33 of OTA is directed to a black matrix, the black matrix of OTA neither has a wide portion nor overlaps a region in the pixel between the data line and a projecting portion as recited.

A marked-up version of Figure 2 of OTA is submitted herewith showing where black matrix 202 occurs. As seen from this marked-up version, the black matrix is uniformly shaped and does not have a portion that is wider than other portions of the black matrix.

As seen in Figure 1 of OTA, the black matrix 202 is formed at intervals other than intervals between the pixel electrode 104 and projecting portion 105, that is, outside the interval between the pixel electrode and the projection portion 105.

Since OTA neither teaches a wider portion, nor that the black matrix overlaps the region in the pixel between the data line and the projecting portion, OTA does not teach or suggest a first portion that is wider than other portions of the black matrix and that overlaps the region in the pixel between the data

line and the projecting portion of a second scanning line, as recited.

As to claim 8, as seen in Figure 1 of OTA, the projecting portion 105 does not overlap the wiring 104 and thus OTA does not meet the limitation that the projection portion overlaps the wiring so as to form electrostatic capacitance between the wiring and the projecting portion, as recited.

NAKATA does not overcome the shortcomings of SHIMADA in view of OTA, and thus the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claims 6-8.

Claim 13 is rejected as unpatentable over SHIMADA in view of OTA. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 recites a black matrix having a first portion that is wider than other portions of the black matrix and that overlaps a region in the pixel between the data line and a portion of the scanning line that projects into the pixel.

As noted in the Official Action, SHIMADA does not teach or suggest this feature. As set forth above, column 22, lines 29-33 of OTA teaches a black matrix but does not teach that the black matrix has a portion that is wider than other portions of the black matrix and that overlaps a region in the pixel between the data line and the projecting portion of the scanning line, as recited.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected as unpatentable over SHIMADA in view of OTA and further in view of NAKATA. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

NAKATA is only cited for the teaching of an insulating layer having a passivation layer, a color filter, and an overcoat layer. NAKATA does not overcome the shortcomings of SHIMADA in view of OTA with respect to claim 13. Since claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and further define the invention, the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claims 14 and 15.

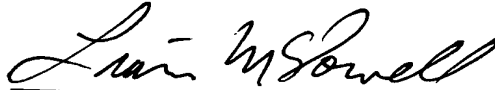
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R.\$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- a marked up version of Figure 2 of OTA